

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 AID-20 DPW-01 RSR-01

/128 W

----- 046115

O R 121000 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1601

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

USSAF 7 AF

CINCSAC

UNCLAS SAIGON 08405

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJ: PRG PRESS BRIEFING STATEMENT ON US BOMBING

1. AT REGULAR SATURDAY PRG PRESS BRIEFING (MAY 12), COLONEL DUONG DINH THAO CHARGED THAT US AIRCRAFT BOMBED INSIDE SOUTH VIETNAM, STRIKING VC- CONTROLLED AREAS ALONG CAMBODIAN BORDER.

2. COLONEL THAO SAID: " IN APRIL 1973, HUNDREDS OF B-52 SORTIES WERE ORDERED TO BOMB CAMBODIAN TERRITORY. THE B-52 S FLEW OVER TAY NINH AREAS UNDER PRG CONTROL EN ROUTE TO CAMBODIA AND DROPPED BOMBS CAUSING MANY CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE."

3. COLONEL THAO IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT BOMBINGS TOOK PLACE AS MUCH FOUR MILES INSIDE SOUTH VIETNAM ALONG A 43 MILE STRETCH BETWEEN XAMAT AND LOC NINH. HE SAID THAT
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F-4 PHANTOMS AND F-105 THUNDERCHIEFS WERE ALSO USED.

4. WHEN ASKED BY NEWSMEN WHY THE PRG HAD NOT MENTIONED THESE US BOMBINGS AT PREVIOUS PRESS BRIEFINGS, COLONEL THAO SAID THE CHARGE HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE ON THE PRG RADIO. USING MY LAI AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE MASSACRE THERE TOOK PLACE IN MARCH 1969, BUT DID NOT COME TO LIGHT UNTIL MARCH 1970.

5. REPORTERS ASKED COLONEL THAO IF US PLANES MIGHT HAVE BOMBED INSIDE SOUTH VIETNAM BY MISTAKE. HE SAID THE US HAD MADE MANY PAST CLAIMS ABOUT THE ACCURACY AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY OF ITS BOMBERS AND THAT THE APRIL BOMBINGS WERE DELIBERATE.

6. COLONEL THAO ADDED THAT THE PRG PLANNED TO PROTEST THE BOMBINGS TO THE ICCS TODAY.

7. EMBASSY HAS ANSWERED PRESS QUERIES BY SAYING PRG CHARGE IS FALSE.

WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON08405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730545/aaaajgdj.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by kuehnbc0>; APPROVED <31-Dec-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980213
Subject: PRG PRESS BRIEFING STATEMENT ON US BOMBING
TAGS: MARR
To: BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
CINCPAC
EA
JAKARTA
OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC

USSAF 7 AF

WARSAW

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005